

Coastal Observation Technology System Project Summary – 2004

Project Name/Title: A Pilot Coastal Ocean Observatory for the Estuaries and Shores of Oregon and Washington

Date Project Initiated: July 2004 (expected start date)

Recipient Institution: Oregon Health and Science University

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Brief Project Summary: As a step toward an operational coastal ocean observatory for the Pacific Northwest, this project proposes the integration and expansion of existing but disparate observation and modeling capabilities for the estuaries and shores of Oregon and Washington. In particular, the project will explore issues of governance and coordination, certification and quality control, maintenance, expandability, and data dissemination. Observations will concentrate on five estuaries (South Slough, Columbia River, Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor, and Puget Sound) and on two littoral cells (Columbia River and Rockaway). Modeling will extend to the entire Pacific Northwest. Information systems will aim at providing quantifiably reliable information to the right user, at the right time, in the right format, with initial focus on products needed to address: (a) estuarine water quality; (b) estuarine ecosystem management and restoration; and (c) coastal storms and erosion.

Accomplishments to Date: Fiscal year 2004 will mark the first year of funding for this project

Current Year Objectives:

- Engage coastal communities.
- Begin integration of existing subcomponent observatories.
- Acquire and install equipment to fill gaps in existing observatories.
- Create a regional modeling framework.
- Begin routine electronic distribution of Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS)-branded data and products.

Partners: Oregon Health and Science University, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Oregon State University, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, U.S. Geological Survey, University of Washington, and Washington Department of Ecology.